

1 Samuel 22 - Thursday, June 26th, 2014

- Last week we did a topical teaching of sorts out of the first part of verse one and Lord willing tonight we will finish the entirety of chapter 22.
- David has just fled Gath on the heels of God delivering him after hearkening unto the voice of David's cry knowing he'd face certain death.
- We pick it up here in verse one where David seeks out the familiar cave of Adullam, which was close to his home and family in Bethlehem.

(1) David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. (2) And everyone *who was* in distress, everyone who *was* in debt, and everyone *who was* discontented [bitterness of soul] gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

- This is yet another one of the many places in God's Word where we need to take notice of the detail that God deemed necessary we know.
- More specifically, why the detail about the financial, emotional and psychological condition of these four hundred men who came to David.
- In other words, why doesn't it say there were four hundred men with him? Answer, this is our condition when we come to the Son of David.

- Let me explain, Jesus, our greater than David, came for the distressed, and discontented sinners who were oppressed and brokenhearted.
- Simply put, it's only when we come to the end of ourselves as condemned and indebted sinners that we recognize our need for a Savior.
- Perhaps better said, it's when we realize just how hopeless and helpless we really are as sinners that we are driven to Jesus for salvation.

Allen Redpath - "These are the kind of men who came to David: distressed, bankrupt, dissatisfied. These are the kind of people who come to Christ, and they are the only people who come to Him, for they have recognized their distress, their debt, and bankruptcy, and are conscious that they are utterly discontented. The sheer pressures of these frustrations drives them to the refuge of the blood of Christ that was shed for them."

Mark 10:25 NKJV It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Luke 4:18 NKJV "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED;

Mark 2:15-17 NIV While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him. (16) When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the "sinners" and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" (17) On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Luke 14:16-23 NKJV Then He said to him, "A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, (17) and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' (18) But they all with one *accord* began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' (19) And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' (20) Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' (21) So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here *the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.*' (22) And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' (23) Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *them* to come in, that my house may be filled.

- There's something else here I'd like to point out before moving on to verse three and it has to do with how encouraged David must've been.
- Especially with his family coming to him there in the cave, this after David was mocked ridiculed and even rejected by his jealous brothers.
- Then, in addition to David's family rallying around him, there were these four hundred men who had in effect, committed their lives to him.

- The reason I point this out is there's a beautiful prophetic picture painted on the canvass of typology those who commit their lives to Christ.
- Here's how I get there, we like the 400 men who came to David, come to Christ by faith before He like David reigns as king on the throne.
- And, just as the 400 men would be trained by and become like David, so to does our greater than David teach and train us to be like Him.

Allan Redpath - "Do you see the truth of which this Old Testament story is so graphic a picture? Just as in David's day, there is a King in exile who is gathering around Him a company of people who are in distress, in debt, and discontented. He is training and preparing them for the day when He shall come to reign."

(3) Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me." (4) So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. (5) Now the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

- This is interesting for a number of reasons not the least of which is that it speaks to David's character in honoring his father and his mother.
- It's important to understand that David was keenly aware that Saul wouldn't hesitate to kill his parents and his brothers if given the chance.
- It's for this reason, David in demonstrating both godly character and godly wisdom, knows his parents who can't flee Saul are safe in Moab.

- Another reason this is interesting is because David's great grandmother was Ruth, who you may remember from our study was a Moabite.
- However, while David knows Saul would never follow them to Moab, David true to form heeds the prophet Gad telling him he cannot stay.
- Once again this speaks to both David's character and David's courage by virtue of his willingness to trust God to protect him back in Judah.

One commentator said it best this way, "Hereby also God would exercise David's faith, and wisdom, and courage; and so prepare him for the kingdom, and uphold and increase his reputation among the people."

(6) When Saul heard that David and the men who *were* with him had been discovered—now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his servants standing about him—(7) then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, *and* make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? (8) All of you have conspired against me, and *there is* no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and *there is* not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as *it is* this day."

- If you're anything like me, you probably can't help but notice the striking contrast between how Saul and David exercise their leadership.
- Saul has to bribe them and manipulate them in order to get them to follow his leadership and get them to do what he is forcing them to do.
- Whereas conversely David is the exact opposite such that those who follow his leadership do so gladly, and it's done of their own volition.

- By the way, is it just me or does Saul always have a spear in hand at the ready to kill anyone who would ever dare to oppose him as king.
- I bring this up for two reasons the first of which is the typology as it relates to our enemy, who is always ready with a flaming spear in hand.
- The second reason I bring this up is because it's textbook for insecure narcissistic psychopaths in that they manipulate with fear and guilt.

(9) Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, "I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. (10) And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine." (11) So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who *were* in Nob. And they all came to the king. (12) And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub!" He answered, "Here I am, my lord." (13) Then Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?" (14) So Ahimelech answered the king and said, "And who among all your servants *is* as faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house? (15) Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, *or* to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much."

- I would probably do well at this juncture to forewarn you that this will get very gnarly, and very bloody, and very quickly as we'll see shortly.
- This because of the certain peril David had put Ahimelech in by deceiving him in the previous chapter so as to get both bread and a sword.
- Moreover, this Edomite named Doeg was all too ready to mislead Saul concerning Ahimelech's innocence in what had actually transpired.

Charles Spurgeon has some insight by way of a personal application when he writes, "The simple minded high priest was blameless, he knew nothing of the feud between Saul and David. David had deceived him, and Doeg knew that he had done so, but did not mention that circumstance. When we report a matter, we are bound to tell it all, or the most innocent may be made to appear guilty."

(16) And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house!" (17) Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also *is* with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me." But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD. (18) And the king said to Doeg, "You turn and kill the priests!" So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. (19) Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword.

- Perhaps you'll indulge me for a just a brief moment as I point out another contrast that's woven into the fabric of a demon possessed Saul.
- I say demon possessed because it's the only thing that explains the unspeakable horror of what he does, which brings me to the contrast.
- Saul will not kill Goliath who was the enemy of God and God's people, yet by contrast he will kill the priests of God and even God's people.

One commentator of this said, "Saul's anger was bent against the Lord Himself, for taking away his kingdom, and giving it to another: and because he could not come at the Lord, therefore he wreaketh his rage upon His priests. ...A bloody sentence, harshly pronounced and as rashly executed, without any pause or deliberation, without any remorse or regret ...was the worst act that ever Saul did."

Adam Clarke echoes this in his commentary when he says, "This is one of the worst acts in the life of Saul; his malice was implacable, and his wrath was cruel, and there is no motive of justice or policy by which such a barbarous act can be justified."

(20) Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. (21) And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests. (22) So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused *the death* of all the persons of your father's house. (23) Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you *shall be* safe."

- The chapter ends with a glimpse into the heart of David, as the man after God's own heart in that he takes responsibility to right the wrong.
- We have an even better glimpse of David's heart, as the sweet Psalmist of Israel vis-à-vis Psalm 52, which he will pen by the Holy Spirit.
- So, I think it would be appropriate for me to close our Bible study tonight by reading Psalm 52. I do so hoping you'll be as blessed as I was.

Psalms 52:1-9 NKJV To the Chief Musician. A Contemplation of David When Doeg the Edomite Went and Told Saul, and Said to Him, "David Has Gone to the House of Ahimelech." Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The goodness of God *endures* continually. (2) Your tongue devises destruction, Like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. (3) You love evil more than good, Lying rather than speaking righteousness. Selah (4) You love all devouring words, *You* deceitful tongue. (5) God shall likewise destroy you forever; He shall take you away, and pluck you out of *your* dwelling place, And uproot you from the land of the living. Selah (6) The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, *saying*, (7) "Here is the man *who* did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, *And* strengthened himself in his wickedness." (8) But I *am* like a green olive tree in the house of God; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever. (9) I will praise You forever, Because You have done *it*; And in the presence of Your saints I will wait on Your name, for *it is* good.